

vast and growing number of Americans, or impose new regulatory burdens on one of our economy's most important assets. I believe it is crucial that we save credit unions from undue limitations, and that this legislation will achieve that goal without harming any other industry. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.●

#### FIFTH CLASS OF INDUCTEES INTO THE CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the fifth class of inductees into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame. These five women gained recognition in fields of nature, justice, the arts, and finance and represent the best of my state and of our nation.

I want to take this opportunity to speak about each of this year's inductees.

Dorrit Hoffleit, a resident of New Haven, Connecticut, has established herself as a premiere astronomer through her work as senior researcher at Yale University. For over seventy years she has studied astronomy and has received an undergraduate degree from Radcliffe in mathematics and a doctorate from Harvard. Her interest in stars began early in her childhood when she saw two stars collide.

During World War II, Professor Hoffleit worked as a mathematician at the Ballistic Research Laboratories at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. It is here that she felt the effects of being a female in a male-dominated field. She was paid less for doing the same work as her male colleagues. In fact, despite her doctorate she still received a sub-professional ranking. However, she protested this treatment and as a result was given her due rank and ultimately transferred to Washington.

In 1956, she went on to direct the Maria Mitchell Observatory in Nantucket, Mass. Her work there helped to provide women with more substantial opportunities in astronomy. An indication of her success is that twenty-five percent of the students who worked with Professor Hoffleit have gone on to become professional astronomers.

As a member of the Yale research faculty, Professor Hoffleit has made immense academic contributions to her field. She is most renowned for her two star catalogs. Her most well known catalog, *The Bright Star Catalogue*, has been defined as "the bible of virtually every stellar astronomer."

Despite retiring from Yale over twenty years ago, Professor Hoffleit continues to go to work every day. In these past twenty years, she has not drawn a salary. She is dedicated to educating her colleagues and future astronomers, rather than promoting herself and her career. As a result of her profound selflessness and service, the effects of her efforts will be as limitless as the stars she has spent a lifetime studying.

A second inductee is Judge Constance Baker Motley. Born in New Haven, Connecticut, Judge Motley first became interested in civil rights after being denied admission into a local public beach and skating rink.

After graduating from high school, she was unable to afford college, so she worked for \$50 a month refinishing furniture. She continued to be active and to voice her beliefs, despite her inability to further her education. A local philanthropist, Clarence Blakeslee, heard her speak at the Youth Council in 1939, and he was so impressed with her that he offered to pay for her education. She graduated from New York University in 1943, and three years later received her law degree from Columbia University.

After graduating from Columbia, she worked full time for the Legal Defense and Educational Fund of the NAACP, under then chief counsel Thurgood Marshall. She worked there for twenty years as a staff member and associate counsel and she was known for her impressive skill as an oral advocate. During her time at the Legal Defense and Educational Fund she argued before the Supreme Court ten times, winning nine appeals. She is renowned for her work with Thurgood Marshall and others on the landmark *Brown versus Board of Education* case.

Judge Motley entered politics in 1964, serving in the New York State Senate. In 1965 she became the first woman to serve as a City Borough President. During this time, she worked on ways to improve the inner-city through better housing and schools. In 1966, she became the first African-American woman to be appointed to a federal judgeship in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. As a federal judge she continued to break new ground. In 1982 she was made chief judge and in 1986 was appointed senior judge. Neither position had ever been held by a woman before her.

Judge Motley's work for justice over five decades has been responsible for some of the most extraordinary changes in American culture during our history. She has received many awards and honorary degrees for her immense contributions to civil rights and the legal profession.

A third inductee is Rosa Ponselle. Born Rosa Melba Ponzillo, she was a first generation American, the daughter of Italian immigrants who settled in Meriden, Connecticut. She began studying music and singing at age ten. Her musical break came at eighteen when she auditioned for the great opera legend, Enrico Caruso. Immediately after auditioning, she was cast in the role of Leonora in the Metropolitan Opera's staging of Verdi's "La Forza del Destino." She remained loyal to the Metropolitan throughout her career, and she spent all but four seasons of her nineteen-year career performing there. In fact, she was the first American-trained singer to star at the Metropolitan.

Ms. Ponselle shocked the opera world when she retired in 1937. She dedicated the remaining forty-four years of her life to helping train and teach aspiring young operatic youths. One of her most notable students was Placido Domingo. She also served as the artistic director of the Baltimore Civic Opera Company. She died in Baltimore in May 1991.

Her voice was said to exude a blend of youthfulness and maturity and she remains an inspiration to opera students and audiences worldwide.

Lillian Vernon, another inductee, is a resident of Greenwich, Connecticut. She is the founder and CEO of Lillian Vernon Corporation. She entered the industry of mail order catalogues in the 1950's when it was dominated by industry moguls such as Richard Sears and A. Montgomery Ward. The company, which began in 1951, was one of the first to offer personalized merchandise by mail. The corporation was the first company founded by a woman to be publicly traded on the American Stock Exchange.

Ms. Vernon also does a great deal of charity work. She serves on the boards of various non-profit organizations, including the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, New York University's College of Arts and Science, and the Children's Museum. She has been honored for her work as a business leader and community activist. She received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the Big Brothers-Big Sisters National Hero Award, and the Direct Marketing Hall of Fame Award. Ms. Vernon is a remarkable entrepreneur, businesswomen, and role model.

The final inductee is Mabel Osgood Wright. She was a resident of Fairfield, Connecticut and was the founder and President of the Connecticut Audubon Society. Wright established the first bird sanctuary in the United States, naming it Birdcraft. She founded the sanctuary around the turn of the century, fearing that bird life was being gradually eradicated.

Wright saw conservation education as a key element to sustaining wildlife. She wrote many books in an effort to introduce children to nature appreciation and conservation. She published a field guide to New England birds in 1895. During this time, the Audubon movement was still young and was lacking public support. Through her involvement she helped to revive the organization on the state level. Aside from serving as President of the Connecticut Audubon Society, she served as an officer of the national group and as an editor and writer for *Bird Lore* magazine.

It is said that Wright was unique in the environmental movement. This is because she was a nature writer as well as a community leader and her message focused not on the protection of our national parks but the preservation of our backyards, our gardens, and our bird sanctuaries. She believed the best way to preserve nature was through teaching children how to do it.

Although she died in 1935, her message lives on at the Birdcraft Bird Sanctuary which remains a museum containing exhibits of Connecticut wildlife and providing frequent tours for school children.

All five of these inductees are richly deserving of this award. I am pleased, indeed, that their remarkable lives will now become better known to the people of Connecticut and the United States for generations to come.●

#### VETERANS' EQUALITY FOR TREATMENT AND SERVICES ACT OF 1998

● Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have sought recognition to express my support for the Medicare subvention demonstration project legislation which has been introduced by Senator JEFFORDS. This important legislation was approved by the Senate last year as part of the Balanced Budget Act, but the measure was stricken from the final version of that legislation in conference. I hope that this year, the House will recede from its objections, and we can send this legislation, which is supported by the Administration, to the President for his signature.

This bill would begin the process of opening a new—and vitally needed—source of funding for the provision of health care services by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It would grant to VA, on a demonstration project basis, the authority to collect and retain funds from Medicare—just as VA collects reimbursement funds from veterans' private insurance carriers—for the costs associated with treating Medicare-eligible veterans' non-service-connected illnesses and injuries.

The Balanced Budget Act specifies that appropriated funding for the provision of health care services by VA will be flat over the next five fiscal years. At the same time, 7.7 million World War II veterans and 4.5 million Korean War veterans—veterans who are eligible for Medicare benefits—will require extensive health care assistance as they age. It is critical that these veterans be allowed to bring their Medicare benefits to VA so that VA might be better able to meet their needs.

This legislation will surely assist VA by providing a new revenue stream. But it will also benefit Medicare. Under the plan set out in this legislation, VA would be reimbursed at a level not to exceed 95% of the rate Medicare would otherwise pay a private hospital for care supplied to a Medicare-eligible veterans. In summary, under this legislation Medicare would receive care for its veteran beneficiaries at a discount, and VA would receive a vitally needed new source of funding.

Medicare subvention legislation is supported by all of the members of the Veterans Affairs Committee. It is sup-

ported by the Administration. All of the major veterans' service organizations have urged enactment of this legislation. And, as I previously noted, the Senate approved this legislation last year as part of the Senate-approved Balanced Budget Act.

I am pleased to add my name to this bill as a cosponsor, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.●

#### RECOGNITION OF DR. LOUIS AVIOLI

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, on May 19, an endowed lectureship, at Washington University in my home State of Missouri, will be named in honor of Louis Avioli, M.D., for his contribution to the field of bone and mineral metabolism. Washington University and St. Louis University employ the largest group of bone research scientists in the world. Dr. Avioli is known as a legend in this field and for good reason.

Dr. Avioli is the founder of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR), and is responsible for individually combining the growing research interests beginning from a large range of disciplines into what is now the top scientific society devoted to bone and mineral research. The membership of ASBMR has grown to more than 3,000 scientists and more than 5,000 attend the annual convention. Dr. Avioli has been appointed to numerous positions, been published countless times and has several honorary degrees.

With so many impressive accomplishments, it is no wonder an endowed lectureship is named in his honor. Commending Dr. Avioli for his many years of service to the field of bone and mineral metabolism, I am glad to say that the State of Missouri is enriched with his wisdom and leadership. I join the many who congratulate and thank him for his hard work and wish him continued success in future years.●

#### VETERANS' EQUALITY FOR TREATMENT AND SERVICES (VETS) ACT OF 1998

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, as a supporter of the Veterans' Equality for Treatment and Services Act of 1998, introduced last Friday by Senator JEFFORDS on behalf of myself, Senator ROCKEFELLER, Senator SPECTER, and Senator MURKOWSKI, I am committed to ensuring that our aging veterans have access to quality, affordable, reliable, and convenient health services.

However, as budgets decrease so, unfortunately, do services provided. The demonstration project outlined in the VETS Act of 1998 will allow Medicare to reimburse the VA for its services without putting a strain on the Medicare trust, and will provide an additional funding source for the VA. The project authorized by this legislation will be conducted over a three-year period, at up to 12 sites across the nation, and annual Medicare spending will be

capped. Safeguards will also be imposed to ensure the cap is not exceeded. This bill may even save Medicare dollars by imposing a mandatory five percent discount on its reimbursement for services provided to veterans.

Those targeted by this legislation are lower- and middle-income veterans who are no longer eligible for treatment at the VA because of its constrained resources. People like Mr. John C. Elkins, of Columbia, South Carolina, who is in his late seventies and who served over 28 years in the military. Recently, Mr. Elkins wrote this in a letter to me: "Oh, I know some think we hang on to life and drain government resources that are being paid for by the younger workers. But I must ask you and those who question us: isn't three wars in a lifetime worth something?"

The veterans of our nation have served honorably and faithfully, often under perilous conditions, and they have sacrificed both with the loss of their lives and with their livelihoods. Thousands of veterans have experienced any number of health care problems. These veterans should have the same access to health care as all other Americans and, quite frankly, Mr. President, they deserve more for the sacrifices they have made.

Mr. President, you will remember what my good friend, the late President John F. Kennedy said in his inaugural address: "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." The men and women of the armed services, our veterans, did just that. They answered their country's call to duty, and in response they were often put in harm's way. They served 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all around the world. They continue to support and defend our nation's interests, and I believe it is time our nation supported their interests.

I urge my distinguished colleagues to join Senators JEFFORDS, ROCKEFELLER, SPECTER, MURKOWSKI, and me in supporting the VETS Act of 1998. It is among the very least that we in Congress can do to continue our support for these veterans, like Mr. Elkins, who have given so much to this country, while at the same time helping to preserve the VA medical system and the Medicare trust.●

#### RECOGNITION OF CFIDS AWARENESS DAY

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to reaffirm my support for the tireless efforts of the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association of Lehigh Valley to fight Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (CFIDS), or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS).

For six years, the CFS Association of Lehigh Valley has been dedicated to finding a cure for CFIDS, increasing public awareness, and supporting victims of this disease. The Lehigh Valley organization is actively involved in